

Emergency Operations

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| Book: | 3 Emergency Operations |
| Chapter | IX Hazardous Materials |
| Subject | 4- Pesticide Emergencies |
| Code | 3-IX-4 |
| Revised | 10/19/2003 |

4.01 Purpose

To establish guidelines for the operations of Jersey Village Emergency Services at incidents involving pesticides and the safety of personnel and citizens at pesticide incidents.

4.02 Policy

All Jersey Village Emergency Services employees and member shall follow these guidelines when handling pesticide incidents to afford the personnel and citizens the greatest degree of safety.

4.03 Procedure

- a. Identify the pesticide involved.
- b. Most pesticides are readily absorbed by way of inhalation, ingestion and through the skin. (Most rapid absorption is through the eyes).
- c. Check containers or packages for placards or other pertinent information.
- d. Notify Chem-Trec with the following information:
 1. What happened
 2. Where
 3. Chemical(s) involved.
 4. EPA registered number.
 5. Type of container(s).
 6. Shipper
 7. Carrier
- e. Make contact with facility management.

4.04 Safety

- a. All personnel involved in operation should be in full protective clothing, including self-contained breathing apparatus.
- b. All personnel should wear rubber boots instead of leather. (Leather cannot be decontaminated).
- c. May have to utilize acid suits.
- d. Stay upwind.
- e. Keep Spectators out of area.
- f. May have to evacuate surrounding area (downwind).

- g. Any personnel experiencing any unusual feelings, tightness in the chest, nausea, etc., should receive medical attention immediately.
- h. Any personnel involved in a spill or fire involving pesticides should be under surveillance for a twenty four (24) hour period because symptoms of poisoning may be delayed as long as twelve (12) hours.
- i. Decontamination of apparatus, equipment and clothing should be done immediately following incident using a strong detergent.
- j. Decontamination of personnel should be done using plenty of soap and water.
- k. Pesticides can be detoxified if allowed to burn freely (complete combustion).

4.05 Operations

- a. Make the necessary notifications to the various agencies.
- b. Evacuate personnel and civilians to an upwind area.
- c. Isolate area and keep personnel out of smoke.
- d. Attack fire from upwind (at a safe distance)
- e. Use minimum amount of water and contain run off.
- f. Should the facility or area containing pesticides become totally involved in fire, the incident commander should consider letting the fire burn and protect exposures. If he/she determines to continue water application, it might have one of the following effects:
 - 1. Result will be extensive contaminated run off.
 - 2. Result could be incomplete combustion of chemicals, resulting in a release of toxic compounds into the air.